

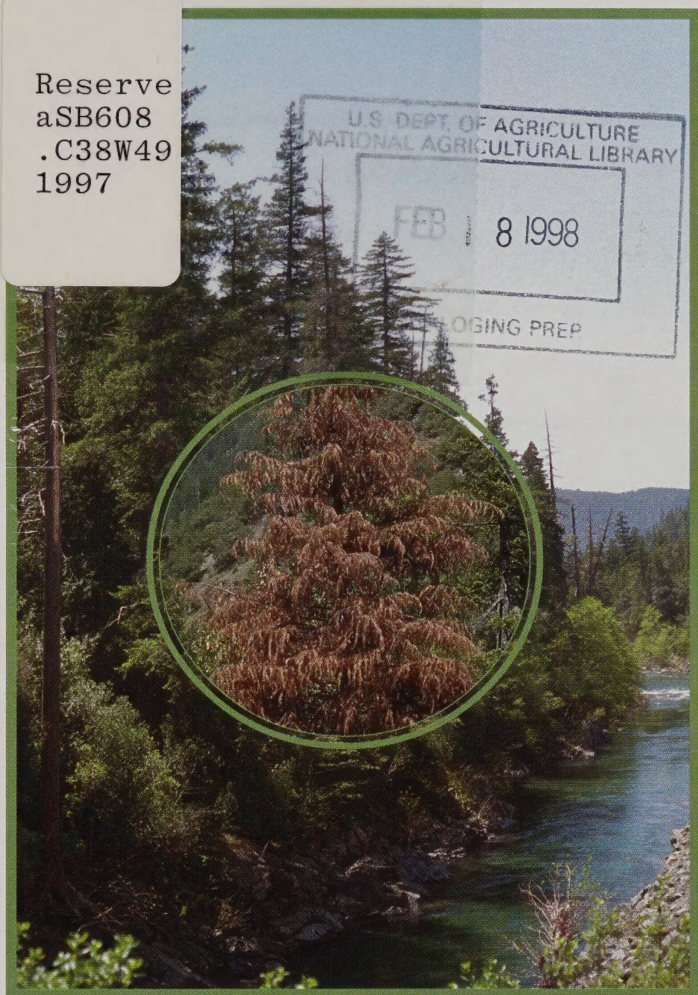
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Why are Port-Orford-cedars dying?

Reserve
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1997



"Did I kill this tree?"

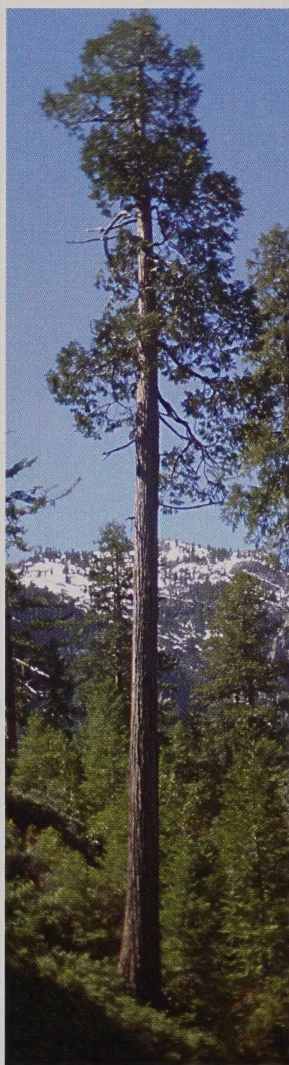
Possibly . . .



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Prepared by US Forest Service
Pacific Southwest Region
Pacific Northwest Region

Anyone who travels the back roads and northwestern California could spread the disease killing Port-Orford-cedar.



Mature Port-Orford-cedars of this size may be worth up to \$10,000 as delivered logs, larger trees up to \$50,000.

Port-Orford-cedar is being attacked by a fatal root disease caused by a fungus carried in water and mud. Once infected, seedlings die within a few months and mature trees within two to four years.

When spores of the fungus are introduced into a watershed, the disease can spread throughout the drainage. To date, no known cure exists and natural resistance is uncertain. But the fungus cannot move from one location to another on its own: it must be carried by humans or animals. We can—and must—

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nia during the rainy season
g the beautiful and valuable*



stop carrying the fungus to uninfested valleys and mountainsides where healthy Port-Orford-cedars still grow.

Port-Orford-cedar is native only to southwestern Oregon and northwestern California. The disease has not yet reached all areas of the tree's native range. With your help we can minimize the risk of infecting these beautiful, valuable trees.

History:

A root disease fungus began killing ornamental Port-Orford-cedar as early as 1922, mainly in areas far north of the native range. By 1952 the fungus had spread into the native range of Port-Orford-cedar in Oregon. Infected seedlings planted on home sites in lowland and mountain drainages, road building, and logging brought the fungus to back country watersheds. Runoff water, streamflow, cattle, and vehicles carried the fungus through the area, killing Port-Orford-cedar trees in its path.

Plant pathologists first confirmed the fungus in native stands of Port-Orford-cedar in California in 1979. Until 1996 the fungus was believed to be contained in areas drained by the Middle and South Forks of the Smith River, mainly along Highway 199. More recently, however, the disease has emerged many miles away in areas that drain into the Klamath and Sacramento Rivers.

How does the fungus spread?



Someone enjoying a ride on an OHV may unknowingly carry the spores that attack Port-Orford-cedar trees.

The fungus spores that cause the root disease live in water and mud. A major cause of long-distance spread is the transportation of infested soil by vehicles. Any type of vehicle that can carry infested soil could spread the fungus. This includes mountain bikes, passenger cars and trucks, off-highway vehicles, and road maintenance and logging equipment.

People driving and walking in the forest to collect firewood, mushrooms, bear grass, evergreen boughs, Christmas trees, and other forest products can also carry the fungus from one site to another.

A hiker's boots may carry spore-infested mud from one drainage to another.



Homeowners may spread the fungus if they dig seedlings from areas of infested soil and plant them in their yards and gardens.



Once the fungus enters the water of a river or stream, any Port-Orford cedar tree along the bank is at risk of infection.

Dead and dying Port-Orford-cedars along a stretch of the Smith River.

What's being done?

Prevention The Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and states of Oregon and California ask that you take special precautions when traveling or working in or near areas with Port-Orford-cedar root disease. The map inside this brochure shows infested areas. Inquire in local Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management offices about the status of specific roads and trails.

Closures Currently some roads in disease-free areas are closed to travel during rainy seasons to prevent infestation of these areas. Please respect the signs and gates that identify areas that are being protected.

Research Researchers are working to find or develop Port-Orford-cedars that can resist the fungus. We may hope for a miracle cure but we must **act now** to stop the spread of the root disease.

How can I help?

The fungus that kills Port-Orford-cedar can spread only if carried from infested to uninfested drainages.

You can help slow the spread of the disease by taking the following precautions:

Respect road closures and gates.



Do not enter a gated area.

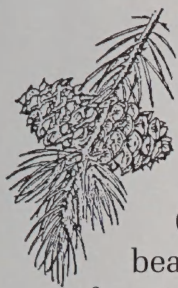
Find out the locations of root disease before traveling in the forest to reduce the chance of spreading Port-Orford-cedar root disease (see map).

Avoid unnecessary travel across infested drainages and on dirt roads when soils are wet.

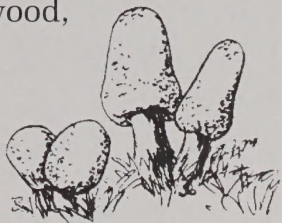


Drive on hard-surfaced roads during the rainy season.

Stay on hard-surfaced roads as much as possible when enjoying and using the forest.



Comply with permit requirements when collecting firewood, boughs, mushrooms, Christmas trees, bear grass, or other forest products.



Any vehicle driven over infested soils should be thoroughly washed before entering a disease-free area.

Wash off:

If you enter infested areas, wash soil from the tires and undercarriage of your vehicle, including cars, trucks, and OHVs, before traveling to another area.



Don't remove any kind of seedling from infested areas for planting elsewhere.

Report dead and dying Port-Orford-cedars to local Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management offices.

Help Us Fight Port-Orford-cedar Root Disease

The fungus that kills Port-Orford-cedar can spread only if the spores are carried from infested to disease-free drainages. You can help slow the spread of the disease by taking the following precautions:

Everyone:

- ◆ Respect road and gate closures.
- ◆ Stay on hard-surfaced roads as much as possible when enjoying and using the forest.
- ◆ Don't remove seedlings from infested areas for planting elsewhere.

Recreational Drivers, Hikers, Bikers, Cyclists:

- ◆ Avoid travel across infested drainages and on dirt roads when soils are wet.
- ◆ Obey road and gate closures.

Collectors of Forest Products (firewood, mushrooms, bear grass, boughs, Christmas trees, etc.):

- ◆ Comply with permit requirements.
- ◆ Wash mud from boots, tires, and underside of vehicles before traveling to another area.

Road Crews:

- ◆ Construct new roads downstream from stands of Port-Orford-cedar where possible.
- ◆ Construct/repair roads in affected areas during the driest part of summer.
- ◆ Thoroughly clean any equipment before moving into a disease-free area.
- ◆ Plan ahead for winter slide debris storage. Don't move infested soil to uninfested areas following winter storms.

Loggers:

- ◆ Use cable or skyline equipment when salvaging diseased Port-Orford-cedar.
- ◆ Wash all equipment after timber harvest in infested areas.
- ◆ Never move equipment directly to an uninfested area without a thorough cleaning.



Don't let



this

become



this



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1312 Fairlane Road
Yreka, CA 96097
(916) 842-6131
(916) 842-5725 TDD

Shasta-Trinity National Forest
2400 Washington Avenue
Redding, CA 96001
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(916) 246-5313 TDD

Siskiyou National Forest
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Grant's Pass, OR 97526
(541) 471-6500
(541) 471-6506 TDD

Six Rivers National Forest
1330 Bayshore Way
Eureka, CA 95501
(707) 442-1721
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Bureau of Land Management
Coos Bay District Office
1300 Airport Lane
North Bend, OR 97459
(541) 756-0100
(541) 756-9301 TDD

Bureau of Land Management
Medford District Office
3040 Biddle Road
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Bureau of Land Management
Roseburg District Office
777 N.W. Garden Valley Blvd.
Roseburg, OR 97470
(541) 440-4930

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If you spot diseased Port-Orford-cedar in your community or a forest, please report it to your local Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management office. This will help us monitor the spread of the disease. These offices can also give you detailed information about infested sites in areas where you may plan to travel.

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(541) 440-4930

Acknowledgements:

This brochure was developed as a cooperative effort among the organizations listed above plus the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the Oregon Department of Forestry. July 1997

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